

What's Going On?

February 2004

A Report to the Honorable Mayor and City Council

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Don't forget....

Copies of College Station's 2003 Annual Report are available at City Hall and on the new website.

PUBLIC ART IN COLLEGE STATION

College Station recently celebrated it's new addition to public art, "Free Flight". "Free Flight" was unveiled at Easterwood Airport on February 16, 2004. Taeg Nishimoto was the artist and is an architecture professor at Texas A&M University.



Free Flight"by Taeg Nishimoto

Art is an important priority to the City Council and is included in the 2004 Strategic Plan. The distribution of public art is part of the commitment to the promotion of cultural arts. Several pieces of representative public art are displayed strategically throughout the City for many to enjoy.

For the last three fiscal years, the City of College Station has dedicated \$150,000 of its annual budget to public art. The City also provides funding for the Arts Council of the Brazos Valley who plays an integral role in the public art process. The Arts Council has assisted the City in obtaining many of the

fine pieces of art that are seen around the area.

College Station now proudly displays ten pieces of public art. These pieces of art are dispersed throughout the City. "Eternal Winds" by Joe Smith is featured at Eastgate, off of Texas Avenue. "Veteran's Memorial" by Robert Eccleston can be found at the Veterans and Athletic Park off of Highway 30. "Half Time" also by Joe Smith is located on 29th Street and Tarrow. "Wilderness Awakened" by Payne Lara can be found in Wolf Pen Creek, off of Holleman Drive. "Xiggerotts" by Jon Krawczyk is displayed outside of the College Station Public Utilities building on Krenck Tap Road. "Service with Honor" by J. Payne Lara is located in



Xiggerotts by Jon Krawczyk

front of the College Station Police Station off of Texas Avenue. "Tiger Pride" also by J. Payne Lara is displayed at A&M Consolidated High School. "Hold On" also by Jon Krawczyk is displayed outside of the Rock Prairie Road McDonalds. "Diana's Quest" also by Joe Smith is located outside of the First National Bank on Rock Prairie Road. Both "Hold On" and Diana's Quest" are owned by private interests. The private sector has also helped promote cultural arts in the Research Valley. Lastly, "Free Flight" by Taeg Nishimoto is displayed at Easterwood Airport.

More information about public art in College Station is available on the City's website. Further information can be found at the Art Council of the Brazos Valley's website.



Veteran's Memorial by Robert Eccleston

CSPD has new program, Law Enforcement Explorers Post

The College Station Police Department is proud to announce the formation of a new program, the Law Enforcement Explorers Post #120.

The Explorers post was chartered in October with the Boys Scouts of America along with Learning for Life. The first meeting was held in October. The post has started with twelve male and female student explorers, eleven from A&M Consolidated High School and one from Texas A&M University. The Explorer members are: David Boller, Katy Brown, Steven Brown, Erick Cabrera, Danielle Hamilton, Gina Ivone, Manuel Jose, Jonathan Lenz, Bronson Martinez, Alison Midgley, Justin Simpson, and Roy Torres. The Explorers all have a strong desire to learn about the career of law enforcement and the criminal justice system. The Explorers will have the opportunity to experience first hand

the procedures and tactics used by law enforcement officers across the state and country. The Explorers will have the chance to show their skills at competition events with other Explorers Posts at competitions across the state.

Competitions are not the main focus of the Explorers Post, however it is the best way for them to test their skills.

The main focus of the Explorers Post is to learn the role of the police officers by taking on the tasks they perform, to explore the career of law enforcement through observation and participation, to learn about the laws of the state and nation, and to perform community service activities.

The Explorers Post meets every Monday night from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the old Municipal Courts Building.

College Station Medical Center made a \$1,000 investment in the Explorers Post. In doing so, the Med became the first

sponsor. Their contribution helped offset the costs of uniforms and equipment. Member of College Station's Police Department involved with the Post include: Master Officer Darrell Luedke, Post Advisor; Master Officer Ke-Ke Johnson, Associate Advisor of Administration; Master Officer Liza Phillips, Associate Advisor of Program; Police Officer Karla Wiesepe, Associate Advisor; Police Officer Robert Turner, Associate Advisor; Lieutenant Scott Simpson, Post Committee Chair; Sergeant John Campbell, Committee Member; and Master Officer Rhonda Seaton, Committee Member.



College Station Utilities Emergency Generation Addition

The CSU Utilities installed emergency electrical generation for the College Station Utility Service Center. The 250-kilowatt unit will automatically provide electricity to the entire USC complex in case of a power outage. The unit will run for 24 hrs on a single tank of fuel. Cost of the unit was \$48,509. The generator is also equipped with high-speed transfer capability. During normal operation, the unit will switch from normal electric service to generator without disruption of computers or systems. Currently, the complex uses approximately 170 KW of electricity during the hot summer months. The added size of the generator will allow the Utility Service Center to grow. When electrical power is lost it affects the telephone system, Utility Dispatch radio system, Outage Management Systems, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems used to control electrical facilities as well as water facilities, and the dispatching capability for the electrical and water crews. During major outages, such as the one

which occurred in April 2003, the restoration of power is accomplished through coordination of surrounding utility Transmission Operators from other utilities, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and College Station Utility Dispatchers.



Electrical information from the College Station Electrical SCADA system is directly tied to ERCOT Control Centers in Austin and Taylor, Texas. By insuring emergency electrical service to all of these systems, College Station Utility Dispatchers should be able to readily coordinate with all parties involved to provide timely restoration of service to our customers.

Emergency power will also be supplied to shop areas, the warehouse and the fuel pumps. During electrical power outages that affect other city fueling sites, employees will have the capability of fueling at the USC.

The following employees are to be commended for successful completion of this project. Thanks to Jesse Staton, Mike Gutowski, Dan Graalum, Scott Montgomery, Jerry Hejl, Mark Marshall, Len Jenicek, Brett Bradley, Charles Carter, Keith Cooke, John Comstock, Nathan Brown, James Roberts, Randy Elizondo, Matt Marek, and Adrian Ayala.

Ice Rink Breaks Ground in College Station

Plans for a multi-million dollar recreational ice rink at Wolf Pen Creek were finalized on February 5, 2004 by the College Station City Council.

Approval of the agreement between the City and Houston-based Fidelis Ventures LLC gives the green light for the developer to proceed with plans to build the 40,000 square foot facility on a four acre tract on the south side of Holleman between Texas Avenue and Dartmouth, adjacent to the Fire Station 1. It is scheduled to open in September 2004.

"This represents an exciting entertainment option for citizens of all ages, as well as one that energizes the Wolf Pen Creek area," Mayor Ron Silvia said. "Based on three other facilities operated by the developers – two in Houston and one in Laredo – the community has much to look forward to as residents take advantage of the year-round rink."

Economic Development Director Kim

Foutz said the agreement requires a minimum investment of \$3.15 million. In exchange for construction of the facility, the City will convey the 4.23 acre tract to the developer and reimburse relocation costs of sewer lines up



Councilmember Anne Hazen tries her hand at hockey.

to a maximum of \$120,000, but retains a lien on the property. In addition, the City will integrate the Richard Street right-of-way into the WPC trail system. The College Station arena will be open to the public and available for ice skating lessons and use by TAMU and independent hockey teams.

Although tentatively called "The Ice Arena at Wolf Pen Creek", developers have plans to hold a contest at a later date to name the new facility, with the lucky winner receiving a lifetime pass. Groundbreaking for the new facility was held on February 19, 2004.

College Station Offers Citizens Fire Academy

The City of College Station is offering a free Citizens' Fire Academy to people residing or working in the Brazos Valley who want to learn more about the many roles of the Fire Department. The Academy will demonstrate the day-to-day operations of the Fire Department, its commitment to the community, and its determination to be at the forefront of fire and injury prevention and rescue.

The Fire Academy involves 3 hours a week for fourteen weeks consisting of the following classes:

- ***Fire Department history***
- ***Administration of the Fire Dept.***
- ***Tour of our facilities***
- ***Fire behavior/ladders***
- ***Tour of the 911 dispatch system***
- ***Hiring process for firefighters***
- ***Fire engines/ambulance familiarization***
- ***Hazardous materials program***
- ***Emergency Medical Services***
- ***Protective clothing***



- ***Self-contained breathing apparatus***
- ***Search and rescue demonstration***
- ***Vehicle extrication***
- ***Fire hoses and ventilation***
- ***Fire prevention and code enforcement***
- ***Fire safety education/CPR training***
- ***Portable fire extinguishers***
- ***Incident command system***
- ***Ride outs with fire engines and ambulances***

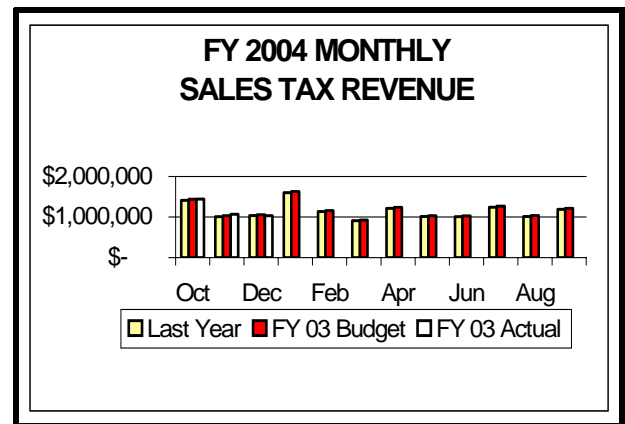
The Academy meets at the College Station Municipal Court Building.



Sales Tax Receipts Up 12% From Same Period Last Year

The City collected **\$1,030,852.81** for the month of January; this is a **12.72%** increase in the same month last year. The January receipts are for sales that occurred in December. Sales tax collections for FY 04 YTD are **\$5,339,510.38** or **5.68%** above FY 03 collections. Sales tax receipts have increased by 3.52% when comparing the last 12 months to the previous 12 months. Overall, state tax receipts have increased in the last several months.

Sales tax is projected to grow 2% in FY 04. The budget office believes that it is important to note that while this is a strong increase, it is only one month. This is a positive sign and hopefully will continue through the fiscal year.



Office of Budget and Strategic Planning Receives Award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) is pleased to announce that the City of College Station has received the **GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** for the current fiscal period (FY 2004). This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. Its attainment represents a significant achievement by the City of

College Station. The award reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the award, the city had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentations. This is the sixteenth year that the Office of Budget and Strategic Planning has been awarded the Budget Award.

This award could not have been obtained without the efforts of the Budget and Strategic Office. Thanks goes to Jeff Kersten, Ryan Rapelye, Courtney Curtis, Corby Alexander and Beckie Chanranza for their hard work and time spent on preparing the FY 04 Budget work.

City Conducts Management Academy

The Human Resources Department held the fourth annual City Management Academy during the week of February 9 –13, 2004. The Management Academy is a week-long intensive and interactive employee development program. The Management Academy is primarily designed for middle and upper level management with particular emphasis on helping participants grow from general management roles into successful leadership roles. Other employees that may be considered as Academy participants include employees in positions that require giving frequent work directions to others, and employees who consistently demonstrate exceptional leadership qualities. Each day of the Management Academy featured a different topic relevant to leadership. Day one focused on "From Manager to Leader." The topic for Day two was "Communication", with par-

ticular focus on how to communicate the City's mission and vision to all employees. Day three was devoted to "How to Build Teams". The fourth day discussions were on "Managing Human Performance", with modules on orienting new employees, delegating, appraising performance, and counseling. The last day of the Academy dealt with "Managing Conflict in the Workplace." Three dynamic and nationally known professionals in the field of employee development facilitated the Academy. Participants were trained by using a blend of lecture, discussion, and hands-on exercises. Bringing these facilitators to the City for a week was significantly more cost effective than sending employees to any conference or convention to receive the same quality of employee development training.

The 25 participants in this year's Academy gained admittance into the Program

through an application and approval process with their Department Director. The granting of approval by senior management demonstrates a strong commitment to the learning and development of City employees. Congratulations to the following employees, who received a Certificate of Completion on February 13th: Mike Mullen, Pete Vanecek, David Hudspeth, Shelia Walker, Mark Langwell, Craig Anderson, James Woodward, Brian Hagen, Holly Hansen, Sandra Baker, Carol Arnold, James Connor, Greg Rodgers, Fred Survoik, Jesse Staton, Mark Williams, Jennifer Nations, Jane Sayers, Cathy Stark, Ryan Pream, Erin Provazek, Courtney Kennedy, Pete Caler, Lee Robinson, and Samantha Best.

Chief Feldman Announces His Intention to Retire

Chief Ed Feldman announced his intention to retire in late January. His retirement will be effective January 31, 2005.

Chief Feldman has lived in College Station for most of his life.

He graduated from A&M Consolidated High School in 1959. After high school he played professional baseball for both the Giants and Dodgers. He later returned to College Station and joined the College Station Police Department. Many will miss the Chief, including Assistant Chief Mike Patterson.

Assistant Chief Patterson described the Chief as a man with *"a very intense desire to do the right thing."*

The search for a new Chief began in early February. Tom Brymer met

with police department employees to evaluate what the city needs in its next Police Chief. These discussions will continue over the next two months and will determine the scope of the City's search for a new Chief.

Tom Brymer will then determine what the process is going to be, in terms of whether he will be engaged in a national search.

It is the intention of the City to have a new Chief in place between October and December of 2004, before Chief Feldman retires officially.



Police Chief Edgar Feldman

George Bush East Widening Ahead of Schedule

This project involves the widening and reconstruction of George Bush Drive from Texas Avenue to Dominick Drive.

The total cost of the widening project is estimated to be \$2,312,000. Young Contractors was the low bidder for this project. Completion of this project was slated for July of 2004.

The project is currently about sixty days ahead of schedule. The striping and signing of the project; as well as, final landscaping and clean-up are

currently being completed. However, the recent inclement weather this month has slowed down progress. Weather permitting, the anticipated substantial completion date is the end of February, at which time a punchlist of items for completion of the project will be made. The contractor will have thirty-days to complete those punchlist items. Consequently, the rehabilitated section of George Bush Drive East should be open by April 1, 2004.



George Bush East Drive in January 2004.

Growth Continues in College Station



Growth continues at a rapid pace in 2004. January's figures from 2004 exceed those from January of 2003. This may be an indication of what is to come in 2004.

The homebuilders came out of the blocks fast this year with 79 homes permitted in January. This compares to 58 for January 2003. The average reported home construction cost,

(absent any land cost) averaged **\$134,080** compared to **\$129,027** for the same period last year.

January recorded **\$18.7** million in total permitted construction versus **\$12.7** million for the same month last year.

City of College Station

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*College Station.
Heart of the
Research Valley.*

SHINING MOMENTS

- City Manager, **Tom Brymer**, was thanked by a participant in Citizens University, for his informative presentation on city functions.
- Senior Officer, **Joseph Benningfield**, was thanked by a parent for his assistance with his daughter's accident. "Officer Benningfield displayed extreme competency and professional while carrying out his duties. His presence made an extremely difficult situation for my family much more bearable."
- **Charles Cryan**, Director of Fiscal Services, was thanked for his involvement with the PLAN 358 class at Texas A&M University. David Pugh, Associate Department Head wrote, "As usual, your talks were outstanding. Our students gain so much practical knowledge from you."
- Sergeant **Janice Kemp** and Master Officer **Walter "Bubba" Sayers** were recently thanked by Mr. Robert Avery for their assistance with his brother-in-law's accident. "They went beyond the call" and "they were really there for the family in their time of need." He commended them for their professionalism and caring.
- Officer **Benton Keough** was thanked for his response to an accident. Officer Keough was thanked for his kindness and professionalism.
- Ken Graham commented that "the soccer fields [Veteran's Park] were the best his son's team has ever played on." Also, Stephen Hollas, sent **Steve Beachy** an e-mail stating, "I personally want to thank you and your staff for doing a great job. I heard so many positive compliments during both weekends [Aggieland Classic Soccer Tournament] regarding the great condition of the fields and the cleanliness of the parks and restrooms."
- **Lance Jackson**, the Lincoln Center Supervisor, was thanked by the 2004 Rock Prairie Elementary Head Start class for their use of the gym.

We're on the web:

www.cstx.gov

SAVE THE DATE....

The 3rd Annual Brazos Valley Transportation Summit is coming soon!

George Bush Presidential Library and Conference Center
April 22-23, 2004

For more information:
tti.tamu.edu/conferences/bvts
(979) 764-3570

